

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement of allowable subject matter. Claims 7 and 20, indicated as allowable if rewritten to include all base claim limitations, have been canceled and new rewritten Claims 32 and 45 submitted herewith are deemed to satisfy the rewriting requirement and are deemed to be patentable. New independent Claims 50 and 53 recite the subject matter indicated as allowable, as do the new independent method claims, Claims 48 and 49.

The claims rejected under §§ 102 and 103 are canceled without prejudice.

Certain of the new claims presented here correspond roughly to certain now-canceled claims as follows:

New Claim	Old Claim
32	1 + 4 + 5 + 7
33	2
34	3
35	6
36	8
37	9
38	10
39	11
40	12
41	14
42	15
43	16
44	18
45	19
46	21
47	22
48	27
49	31
50	1 + 5 + 7
51	2
52	3
53	19 + 20

All the new claims, either independently or by dependence, recite the subject matter indicated as "Allowable Subject Matter" in the Office Action.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 1 - 18 and 31

Claims 1 - 18 and 31, rejected under § 112 regarding the recitation of holes in the screening material for screening and holes for pins, have been canceled.

The new claims submitted (see independent Claims 32, 49, 50) here recite that the screening material has screening openings for fluid flow; and pin holes for pins.

Claim 5, rejected under § 112, has been canceled. There is proper antecedent basis in new claims 32 and 50 which incorporate language from now-canceled Claim 5.

Claim 28, rejected under § 112, has been canceled.

Claim 13, rejected under § 112, has been canceled.

Drawings

New formal drawings were filed herein on 1/13/2005.

Certain drawing numerals noted in the Office Action are in the new formal drawings as follows:

821 Fig. 52A

822c Fig. 52F

830c Fig. 55B

830d Fig. 55B

Numeral 880 has been deleted from Page 18, line 29 of the Specification.

Numerals 882a and 882b remain which are used to indicate the bladders, uninflated and inflated. The brackets on Page 19, line 7 of the Specification are now indicated by numeral 882x; and the walls on Page 19, line 8 are now indicated by numeral 882z. Marked-up and replacement pages 19 are submitted herewith, along with a replacement drawing sheet with corrected Fig. 55B with new numerals 882x and 882z.

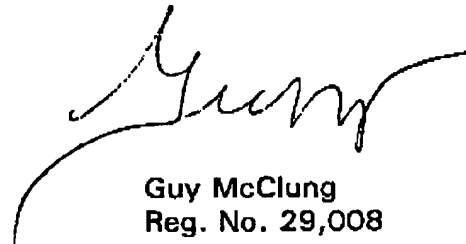
The drawings were objected to for not showing the edge hooks of Claim 17. Claim 17 has been canceled and no new claim is presented here which is limited to

such hooks.

Conclusion

Applicants appreciate the careful and detailed Office Action. This is intended to be a complete Response to the Office Action. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Strong et al	§
		§ Art Unit: 3653
Serial No:	10/774,303	§
		§ Examiner: Joerger, Kaitlin S.
Filed:	6 Feb. 2004	§
		§ Atty Docket No: SC 082
For:	Shaker Screen and Clamping System	§
		§ Conf. No. 5404
		§

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 2/28/2006

Marked-Up Specification Pages 18, 19

be vertical or parallel with sides of a basket or screen support in which and/or on which a screen assembly is mounted or installed. As shown in Fig. 53A, in Fig. 54 and Fig. 55A, it is within the scope of this invention to cant a pin or pins inwardly from the side or wall of a basket, etc. so that, as a screen assembly is forced down around the pin(s) (e.g. by movable rails or by inflating bladder apparatus), the screen assembly's screening material is tensioned. Such downward movement of rails or bladders also effects seals along the sides of the screen assembly.

91. Fig. 54 shows another embodiment of a clamping system 860 according to the present invention which is similar to the system 840 (Fig. 53A) and like numerals indicate like parts; but the system 860 does not have the ledges 852 with the angled upper surfaces 856. Side supports 863 support the screen assembly 830 and the downward force of the rails 826 bends the edge portions 832 of the screen assembly 830 against an upper surface 867 of the side supports 863. Optionally pins 864, like the pins 854, Fig. 53A connected to crossmembers 815 extend into corresponding holes 865 in the rails 826. These pins 864 also extend through the holes 833 of the screen assembly 830.

92. Figs. 55A - 55C show a screen assembly clamping system 870 according to the present invention for a vibratory separator or shale shaker. Side ledges 872 (like the ledges 852, Fig. 53A) have upwardly projecting pins 874 that extend through corresponding holes in edge portions of a screen assembly 830. Each ledge 872 has a non-horizontal angled upper surface 876. Bladders 882 of bladder apparatuses ~~880~~ [bladders shown both uninflated (flattened, 882a) and inflated (oval, 882b) in Figs. 55A and 55b] press down on screening material of the screen assembly 830 and bend the edge portions into conformity with the angle of the upper surfaces 876 of the ledges 872, thus "crowning" the screen assembly 830 (as do the piston mechanisms and rails 40 in the system of Figs. 52C and 53A) and tensioning the screening material.

SC 082

93. As shown in Fig. 55B air from a pressurized air source PS provides air under pressure for inflating the bladders 882.

94. As shown in Fig. 55C, the screen assembly 830 may, optionally, have side lips or hooks 830c which are selectively
5 releasably positionable in gaps 830d between brackets ~~882a~~ 882x holding the bladders 882 and side walls ~~882b~~ 882z of a vibratory separator. Any known shape or configuration for any known hookstrip and/or hooks may be used with associated well-known hook or hookstrip holding apparatus.

95. Fig. 55C shows a system 870a like the system 870, Fig. 55A, and like numerals indicate like parts; but the system 870a does not have the ledges 872. Side supports 877 support the screen assembly 830 and the downward force of the bladders 882 bends the edge portions 832 of the screen assembly 830 against an upper
15 surface 878 of the side supports 877.

96. Fig. 56 shows a shale shaker 890 according to the present invention which has a screen mounting basket 891; vibration apparatus 892 connected to the basket 891; a mounting skid 893
20 spring mounts 894 (two on each side) connecting the basket 891 to the skid 893; and a lower receptacle 895 which receives fluid passing through screen assemblies 896a and 896b.

97. Piston mechanisms 897 (like the piston mechanisms described above) releasably hold the screen assemblies 896a and 896b in place.

98. Fluid is introduced onto the screen assembly 896a from a tank or "possum belly" 898. Separated solids progress up the screen 896a and are discharged onto the screen assembly 896b. Following further fluid separation, the solids move up and off of the screen assembly 896b and are discharged from the shale shaker
30 890. Hydraulic fluid to power the piston mechanisms is provided in lines 899a, 899b, 899c, and 899f from a pressurized source 899d.

99. Fig. 57 shows a manually operable apparatus 895 for moving rails 826. Members 896 with handles 897 and cam surfaces 898

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US Ser. No. 10/774,303
 Marked-Up Sheet showing changes

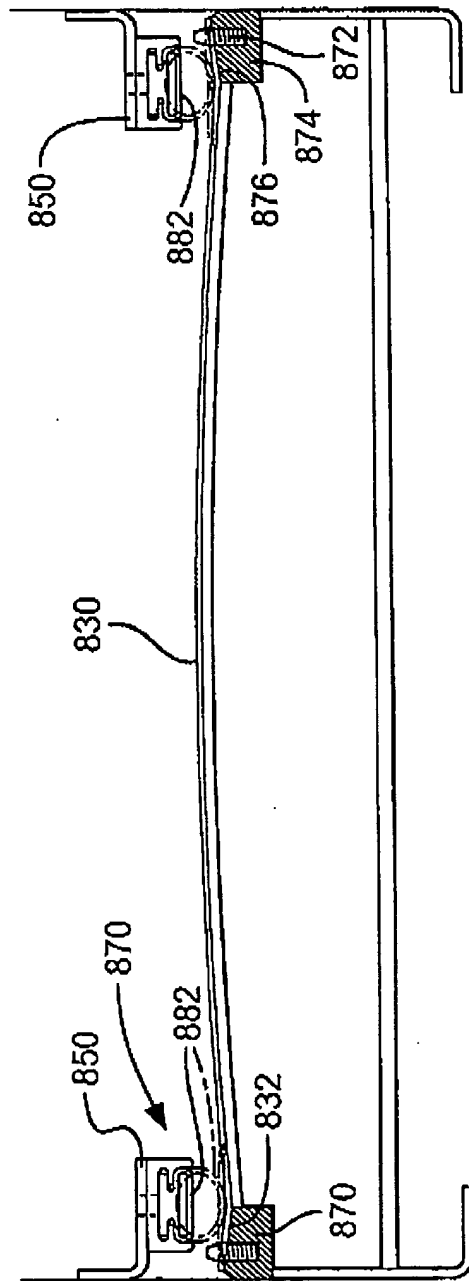


Fig. 55A

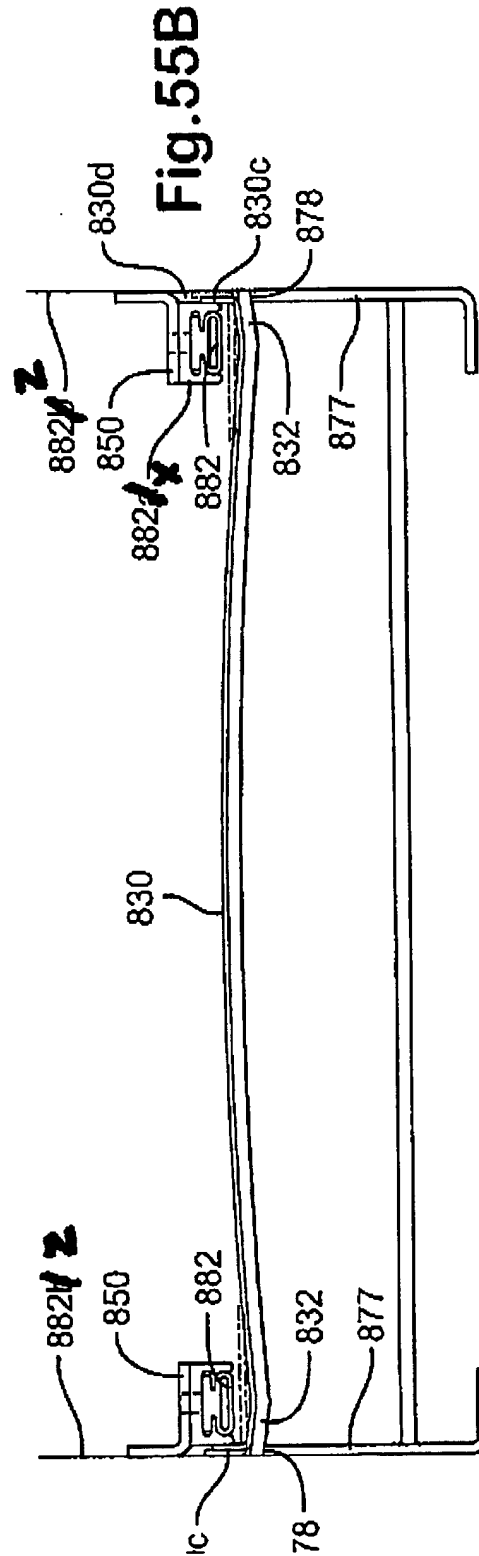


Fig. 55B

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